

OPINION 1832

Coluber poecilogyrus Wied-Neuwied, [1824] (currently *Liophis poecilogyrus*) (Reptilia, Serpentes): specific name conserved

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Reptilia; Serpentes; snakes; *Liophis poecilogyrus*.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary powers the following specific names are hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy:
 - (a) *m-nigrum* Raddi, 1820, as published in the binomen *Coluber m-nigrum*;
 - (b) *alternans* Lichtenstein, 1823, as published in the binomen *Coluber alternans*;
 - (c) *forsteri* Wagler in Spix, 1824, as published in the binomen *Natrix forsteri*.
- (2) The name *poecilogyrus* Wied-Neuwied, [1824], as published in the binomen *Coluber poecilogyrus*, is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *m-nigrum* Raddi, 1820, as published in the binomen *Coluber m-nigrum* and as suppressed in (1)(a) above;
 - (b) *alternans* Lichtenstein, 1823, as published in the binomen *Coluber alternans* and as suppressed in (1)(b) above;
 - (c) *forsteri* Wagler in Spix, 1824, as published in the binomen *Natrix forsteri* and as suppressed in (1)(c) above;
 - (d) *doliatus* Wied-Neuwied, [1824], as published in the binomen *Coluber doliatus* (a junior primary homonym of *Coluber doliatus* Linnaeus, 1766).

History of Case 2875

An application for the conservation of the specific name of *Coluber poecilogyrus* Wied-Neuwied, [1824] was received from Prof Hobart M. Smith (*University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, U.S.A.*), Dr James R. Dixon (*Texas A & M University, Texas, U.S.A.*) and Dr Van Wallach (*Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*) on 1 February 1993. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 51: 250–252 (September 1994). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

A comment in support from Prof Laurie J. Vitt (*Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, U.S.A.*) was published in BZN 52: 77–78 (March 1995). A note of further supportive comments from Prof Edwin L. Bell (*Albright College, Reading, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.*) and from Prof Kenneth L. Williams (*Northwestern State University of Louisiana, Natchitoches, Louisiana, U.S.A.*) was published at the same time.

It was noted on the voting paper that the specific name of *Coluber doliatus* Wied-Neuwied, [1824] (pl. [44], fig. 3), which is considered to be a synonym of *C. poecilogyrus*, was published on the same page and the same plate as the latter

(pl. [44], fig. 2; cf. para. 4 of the application). *C. doliatus* Wied-Neuwied is a junior primary homonym of *C. doliatus* Linnaeus, 1766 and it was proposed that it be placed on the Official Index in addition to the names recorded in para. (3)(a)–(c) on BZN 51: 251.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 1995 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 51: 251. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 1995 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 23: Bayer, Bock, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Dupuis, Hahn, Halvorsen, Heppell, Holthuis, Kabata, Kraus, Macpherson, Mahner, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Štys (part), Trjapitzin
Negative votes — 2: Bouchet and Lehtinen.

No votes were received from Ride and Uéno.

Bouchet commented: 'The application (para. 6) refers to 'a list of ten works of the last 50 years which have used the binomen *Liophis poecilogyrus*'. In my view this does not qualify as a widespread usage and priority should apply'. Štys voted in favour of conserving the name *Coluber poecilogyrus* but against placing *Coluber doliatus* Wied-Neuwied, [1824] on the Official Index.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

alternans, *Coluber*, Lichtenstein, 1823, *Verzeichniss der Doubletten des zoologischen Museums der Königl. Universität zu Berlin nebst Beschreibung vieler bisher unbekanntten Arten von Säugethieren, Vögeln, Amphibien und Fischen*, p. 104.

doliatus, *Coluber*, Wied-Neuwied, [1824], *Abbildungen zur Naturgeschichte Brasiliens*, Heft 8, pl. 44, fig. 3.

forsteri, *Natrix*, Wagler, 1824, in Spix, J.B. von, *Serpentum Brasiliensium species novae ...*, p. 16.
m-nigrum, *Coluber*, Raddi, 1820, *Atti della Società Italiana di Scienze Naturali di Modena*, 18: 338.

poecilogyrus, *Coluber*, Wied-Neuwied, [1824], *Abbildungen zur Naturgeschichte Brasiliens*, Heft 8, pl. 44, fig. 2.